

Title: Understanding Environmental Discourses Relating to Water Security
Abstract submitted for “Water In The World: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Access and Sustainability” Winthrop University Interdisciplinary Conference, Rock Hill 2015

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During the next 100 years, water-security will become increasingly important because there is a limited amount of water which is accessible on the planet. Out of the total amount of water, only 2.5% of it is freshwater, and thus safe for consumption, and of that only 0.4% is water found on the surface or in the atmosphere. This means that out of the million trillion gallons of water that are on the planet, only a small fraction of that is available for general consumption. While reports inform, and might offer solutions, they give little insight as to how to create policy. A discourse analysis, drawn from the work of John Dryzek, conclusions about how to create a policy can be drawn. As the most defined, his categories of the Promethean, Survivalist, Administrative Rationalist, Democratic Pragmatist and Market Rationalist discourses offer the most insight.

My paper addresses how these discourses frame water security politics. I highlight the amount of influence each discourse has over water security to better address the feasibility and challenges each faces when trying to implement policy, and how effective each is at doing so.

I do not require any audiovisual equipment for my presentation.